

STEPHANIE S. CHRISTENSEN  
Acting United States Attorney  
SCOTT M. GARRINGER  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Chief, Criminal Division  
SHAWN J. NELSON (Cal. Bar No. 185149)  
GREGORY BERNSTEIN (Cal. Bar No. 299204)  
KEITH D. ELLISON (Cal. Bar No. 307070)  
GREGG E. MARMARO (Cal. Bar No. 338627)  
Assistant United States Attorneys  
1200 United States Courthouse  
312 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
Telephone: 213-894-5339/3183/6920/8500  
Facsimile: 213-894-0142  
E-mail: shawn.nelson@usdoj.gov  
gregory.bernstein@usdoj.gov  
keith.ellison2@usdoj.gov  
gregg.marmaro@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOSE LANDA-RODRIGUEZ, et al.,  
[#3-GABRIEL ZENDEJAS-CHAVEZ]

Defendants.

No. 2:18-CR-00173(A)-GW-3

GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED VOIR DIRE

Trial Date: August 2, 2022

Trial Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Courtroom of the  
Honorable George Wu

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 24(a)(2)(B),  
plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel of  
record, the United States Attorney for the Central District of  
California and Assistant United States Attorneys Shawn J. Nelson,  
Gregory Bernstein, Keith D. Ellison, and Gregg E. Marmaro, hereby  
files its Proposed Voir Dire and respectfully requests that the Court

ask prospective jurors the attached questions during voir dire, in addition to the Court's standard voir dire questions.

Dated: July 24, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHANIE S. CHRISTENSEN  
Acting United States Attorney

SCOTT M. GARRINGER  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Chief, Criminal Division

/s/ Shawn J. Nelson

SHAWN J. NELSON  
GREGORY BERNSTEIN  
KEITH D. ELLISON  
GREGG E. MARMARO  
Assistant United States Attorneys

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED VOIR DIRE**

**I. PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH CRIMINAL CASES/LAW ENFORCEMENT**

1. Have you or anyone close to you ever been involved in a criminal case either as a victim, defendant, or witness?

a. What kind of case?

b. What was your relationship to that case?

c. When did the case happen?

d. Where did the case happen?

e. Was anyone arrested?

f. Which law enforcement agency was involved?

2. Have you or anyone close to you ever had a negative experience involving the police or any member of law enforcement?

a. Who had the experience?

b. What was the experience?

c. When was the experience?

d. Which law enforcement agency was involved?

e. Do you have any negative feelings about law enforcement or the criminal justice system because of that experience?

3. Have you or anyone close to you ever filed a lawsuit or complaint concerning the conduct of a law enforcement officer?

4. Have you or anyone close to you ever been accused, arrested, indicted, charged, or convicted in a criminal case (except for infractions and traffic offenses)?

a. What kind of case was it?

b. When was the case?

c. What was the accusation/charge?

d. What was the outcome?

1           5. Do you have any general feelings or beliefs about law  
2 enforcement officers that would prevent you from fairly assessing the  
3 credibility of law enforcement officers who may testify in this case?

4           6. Do you have any general feelings or beliefs about the  
5 criminal justice system that would prevent you from rendering a fair  
6 and impartial verdict in this case?

7           7. Do you know or have contact with any prosecutor, defense  
8 attorney, judge, court clerk, or other participant in the criminal  
9 justice system?

10           a. If so, please describe.

11           b. Would that contact affect your ability to be a fair  
12 and impartial juror in this case.

13           8. Do you have any feelings about the fairness or unfairness  
14 of the criminal justice system? If so, describe.

15                           **II. PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH GANGS**

16           9. Have you or anyone close to you had any experiences with  
17 gangs, whether as a member, associate, victim, or neighbor.

18           a. What gang?

19           b. Where?

20           10. Have you ever heard of the Mexican Mafia? If yes, please  
21 explain.

22           11. Have you read, seen, or heard any news reports about this  
23 case? If yes, explain.

24                           **III. VIEWS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

25           12. This case involves a multi-year investigation by a Federal  
26 Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") Task Force that also includes the  
27 Drug Enforcement Administration, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's  
28 Department, the Pomona Police Department, and the California

1 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, among others. Have you  
2 heard anything about or have any feelings about any of these agencies  
3 that would affect your ability to treat witnesses from these agencies  
4 fairly and review their testimony without any bias?

5 **IV. VIEWS ON CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNIQUES**

6 13. The investigation of this case used investigative  
7 techniques like court-authorized wiretaps, undercover recordings, the  
8 review of video surveillance, and the review of recorded jail phone  
9 calls. Do you have any objection to court-authorized wiretaps,  
10 undercover recordings, review of video surveillance, or the review of  
11 recorded jail phone calls? If so, please explain.

12 14. The investigation in this case involved the use of  
13 defendant's co-conspirators as witnesses against him, commonly  
14 referred to as confidential informants, cooperating defendants, or  
15 cooperating witnesses. Necessarily, these witnesses are also engaged  
16 in criminal conduct and have criminal histories. Do you have any  
17 objection to the use of these witnesses to investigate crimes? If  
18 yes, please explain.

19 15. Keeping in mind the significant risks that these witnesses  
20 often face for cooperating with law enforcement, do you think it is  
21 improper for the government to provide these witnesses with benefits  
22 like reduced or dismissed charges or monetary compensation? If yes,  
23 please explain.

24 16. If you do have objections to the government's use of these  
25 witnesses, would that impair your ability to render a fair and  
26 impartial verdict in this case?

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**V. KNOWLEDGE OF POTENTIAL WITNESSES**

17. Are you familiar with any of the following individuals, who may be witnesses in this case? [The Court is respectfully requested to read the government's and defendant's witness lists.]

**VI. GENERAL ABILITY TO SERVE AS A JUROR ON THIS CASE**

18. If you are selected as a juror and hear this case, you will be required to deliberate with other jurors. This will require you to discuss the evidence and the law in this case with the other jurors. Is there anything that leads you to believe that you would be unable or unwilling to engage in such discussions?

19. There are some people who, for moral, ethical, or religious reasons, may find it difficult or uncomfortable to pass judgment on the conduct of others. Is there anyone who holds such beliefs, or who might be affected by such beliefs?

20. The potential punishment for the offenses charged in the indictment is a matter solely for the judge's discretion and it should never be considered by the jury in any way in arriving at an impartial verdict as to the guilt or innocence of the accused. Will you be able to conduct your duties as a juror in this case without speculating about or being influenced in any way by whatever punishment may or may not be imposed in this case?

21. The role of a juror in a case of this type is to decide whether or not the law was broken, and not whether the law itself is a good law or a bad law or should be changed. Can you put aside your feelings on the wisdom of a law and decide the law only on the evidence?

1           22. If the Court instructs you that your verdict must not be  
2 based on sympathy, passion, or prejudice, but only on the evidence in  
3 this case, will you be able to follow that instruction?

4           23. Is there anything about the charges or defendant in this  
5 case that makes you unwilling or reluctant to serve as a juror?

6           24. Is there anything about the charges in this case that makes  
7 you unwilling or reluctant to serve as a juror.

8           25. Do you have any particular health or medical concerns that  
9 would prevent you from serving as a juror in this case or  
10 concentrating on or evaluating the evidence in this case.